

PROFILE

The UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS-Davis) is the leading university-based sustainable transportation program in the world. Founded in 1991 to conduct and share multidisciplinary research on emerging and important transportation issues and to enhance transportation education, the Institute now has more than 120 graduate students working with 60+ faculty.

Our programs focus on energy and environment, advanced vehicle technologies, transportation fuels, land use planning, consumer behavior, and new mobility—all with an eye toward contributing to sound regional, national, and international transportation policy.

ITS-Davis and its affiliated and partner institutes and centers are located at the UC Davis West Village campus. West Village is the largest zero net energy community in the country and the first university hub to specialize in transportation and energy research. It is also home to the Honda Smart Home, where Honda partnered with the Energy and Efficiency institute and a broad array of UC Davis-affiliated researchers to showcase energy efficient technology in the home of the near future.



UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May honored ITS-Davis Founding Director Dan Sperling as the first holder of the Blue Planet Prize Endowed Chair. Joining them at the ceremony were their spouses, LeShelle R. May and Sandy Berg.

Research

ITS-Davis carries out innovative and objective research that provides essential support for durable, science-based policies and strategic business decisions. The Institute's deep and comprehensive approach to the challenges of moving toward a clean and sustainable future is unique and valuable. ITS-Davis teams have led critical research projects for 15-plus state, national and international agencies, and partnered with more than 60 companies and environmental non-profits on influential policy and industry planning initiatives.

Outreach

ITS-Davis is a respected convener of diverse stakeholders to promote progress in sustainable transportation policy. Over the last quarter century, the institute has hosted more than 100 major gatherings. Since 1988, ITS-Davis has hosted the Transportation Research Board's biennial Asilomar Conference on Transportation and Energy, the premier international gathering on sustainable transportation policy for senior leaders in government, NGOs, academia, and industry. The first public gathering that explicitly addressed the broad range of new mobility concepts was held at UC Davis in November 1998. Today, ITS-Davis' 3 Revolutions Future Mobility Program brings rigorous research and policy outreach and engagement to innovations that are transforming the field of transportation: shared mobility, electrification, and automated vehicles. The China-U.S. ZEV Policy Lab, led by ITS-Davis, continues its global leadership role, fostering international policy coordination and expanding transpacific cooperation and the deployment of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs).

UC Davis is located in close proximity to the state capital of California, renowned for its world-leading sustainable transportation and emission reduction programs. ITS-Davis' experience in bringing science to policy means that our research helps to inform both California and federal policy dialogue and decision making. We actively disseminate research findings from all our programs through a variety of venues, including workshops, webinars, white papers and our blog. Our researchers speak at conferences across the globe and advise governments and industry in the U.S., Europe and Asia on sustainable transportation and ZEV policies.

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Affiliated Research Centers and Programs

- Sustainable Transportation Energy Pathways Program
- National Center for Sustainable Transportation
- 3 Revolutions Future Mobility Program
- Plug-in Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Research Center
- China Center for Energy and Transportation
- Energy and Efficiency Institute
- Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy

Education

The Institute's interdisciplinary education program is designed to train a new generation of leaders on low-carbon transportation solutions. Our Transportation Technology and Policy graduate curriculum draws from 34 different academic disciplines and our nearly 300 master's and Ph.D. graduates hold diverse and influential positions around the globe in government, industry, and academia.

ITS-Davis graduate students conduct research on an array of topics that include consumer behavior and future demand for advanced vehicles and fuels; future vehicle powertrain and fuel pathways and scenarios that involve battery electric, hydrogen fuel cell, biofuels, and clean diesel systems; fuel strategies based on California, national and international policies such as California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard; sustainable transportation concepts related to land-use changes and intelligent transportation systems to reduce vehicle miles traveled; international transportation and energy issues; emissions, air quality, and energy efficiency; and transportation economics, social costs, and lifecycle emissions analysis.



Sponsors

ITS-Davis receives financial support from local, state and federal government grants and contracts, private foundations, and corporate sponsors. We are proud of our relationships with more than 60 organizations worldwide that help to sponsor research and conferences, host graduate student interns, support programs and activities, and donate equipment. Our Institute benefits greatly from a broad range of financial support, sponsorships and partnerships.

Media Contact

Our academic and research faculty can provide science-based expertise on a wide range of sustainable transportation and renewable energy topics and policies. For inquiries, contact:

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